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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 003155

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DEPT FOR EUR/AGS (YSAINTANDRE), L/PM (ADEEKS), PM, AND ISN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/27/2016  
TAGS: [MCA](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [AU](#)  
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE: NOVEMBER 2006 CONVENTION ON  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS REVIEW CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 168629

Classified By: Acting Economic-Political Counselor Phillip R. Nelson  
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) EconPolOff presented reftel points on October 17 to Dorothea Auer, Head of MFA's Arms Control and Disarmament Department, and Monika Froemler, Auer's advisor on the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW). Regarding the upcoming Review Conference (RevCon) for the CCW, Auer said that consultations are still ongoing within the EU concerning the U.S. "opt-in" approach to the proposed protocol to the CCW on anti-vehicle mines (MOTAPM). The EU, she added, is very close to a decision.

¶2. (C) Auer acknowledged that the GoA has humanitarian concerns about the USG's opt-in approach. She questioned what the added value would be, if the detectability and mobility issues are opt-in. She said the GoA would rather have countries like Russia, China, and Cuba opt-out, rather than opt-in to a protocol with weak language. According to Auer, the crucial question regarding the RevCon is "where and how deep" the States Parties are willing to go on the MOTAPM issue. The GoA would like to continue discussions on MOTAPM. In response to Auer's question on the on-going work related to the implementation of the ERW protocol, Emboff said the USG was prepared to agree to a meeting of military experts on this.

¶3. (C) Concerning the opt-in approach, Froemler asked whether the USG would accept the definition of "PMAs" in the current paper, which the MOTAPM coordinator circulated in Geneva. She also asked if the USG had consulted with Brazil, the MOTAPM chair, whether difficult countries (Russia China) were willing to discuss the opt-in approach. Addressing the USG's preference to defer further discussions on MOTAPM, Froemler asked for clarification on whether the USG would like to defer MOTAPM discussions entirely or whether MOTAPM could still be discussed as part of the Second Amended Protocol (AP2). Froemler questioned what the implications would be for subtopics -- ERW protocol and compliance -- if the States Parties defer discussions on MOTAPM. Additionally, if the States Parties defer discussion on MOTAPM, how would the parties restart the negotiations?

¶4. (U) Guidance Request: Post appreciates guidance from Department regarding Froemler's questions.

Kilner